

May 15, 2006

# Afghanistan Freedom

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan



**Soldier delivers dolls,  
hope to Afghan youth**

**Page 10**





Army Col. John Nicholson, Task Force Spartan commander, right, escorts Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, in Kunar Province. Schoomaker met with Task Force Spartan and Afghan National Army leaders and soldiers operating in Kunar Province during a visit to Regional Command East on April 21.

Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pintagro  
Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

Cover: Army Sgt. 1st Class Steve Brown delivers donated dolls to Afghan girls recently. Brown is assigned to the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion.

Courtesy Photo

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## *Afghanistan* **Freedom** Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan **Watch**

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CFC-A Commander Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry  
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### ***Freedom Watch Staff***

Commander - Capt. Jim Bono  
NCOIC - Sgt. 1st Class Ken McCooey  
Editor - Cpl. Tremeshia Ellis  
Journalists - Spc. James Tamez  
Pfc. Anna Perry  
Pfc. Michael Nyeste

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# Coalition air strike kills enemy

**Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan  
Public Affairs**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- During a successful air strike May 8, Coalition aircraft killed four enemy extremists and destroyed a truck and cave complex in the Bermel District of Paktika Province. Coalition Forces suspect other insurgents may have possibly been buried in the rubble.

Prior to the strike, a joint combat team of Afghan National Army and U.S. ground forces observed individuals loading a truck near the cave and determined the personnel were moving rockets from a cave complex.

The unit assessed the activity was linked to recent rocket attacks on a Coalition fire base nearby.

A request was made for air support to attack the complex.

U.S. Air Force A-10 fighter aircraft and a Predator unmanned aerial vehicle, assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Afghanistan, were directed to engage the cave complex.

The A-10 and Predator expended precision-guided munitions against the target,

effectively sealing the cave from future use.

"The immediate response by these aircraft demonstrates the effectiveness of our combined air support for joint operations in theater," said Royal Air Force Air Commodore Mark Swan, director of the Combined Air Operations Center. "Our message is very clear to those who attack innocent civilians and coalition forces: you have a choice. If you continue your terrorist activities, we will find you, we can track you, and we will take all appropriate actions to stop you."

A patrol sent to investigate the cave received small arms fire from one enemy combatant. Coalition forces returned fire and captured the enemy combatant.

The patrol discovered two trucks near the cave. Inside the trucks, buried under gravel, were two 107mm rockets. Both vehicles were destroyed.

"This was a very successful joint combat operation with Afghan and Coalition forces as we continue to search out enemies and eliminate their capability to attack our forces," said Lt. Col Paul Fitzpatrick, Combined Joint Task Force - 76 spokesman.

"We believe these insurgents and this cache are linked to recent rocket attacks in Bermel," said Fitzpatrick.

"The crude use of rockets by insurgents often causes damage and injuries to innocent civilians like the April rocket attacks in Assadabad that killed seven children at a school and in Kabul that injured a guard at Radio Television Afghanistan," he said. "Destroying this cache protects the lives of Afghans as well as Coalition forces."

The cave complex was near, but clearly inside the international boundary of Afghanistan and confirmed by global positioning system.

Only three rounds of ordnance from the close air support were fired and all accurately struck the cave and only the cave. Coalition forces were in direct communication with Pakistani forces across the border throughout this operation.

Coalition officials emphasized the strike is an example of the effective coordination between the Afghan and Pakistan armies being conducted along the border region to disrupt their common enemy. All operations were conducted inside Afghanistan in direct coordination with Pakistan Army forces nearby.

## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



**Can I help you?**

**Dari**

**Maun maytawanam shoomara koomak kunum? (Mawn may-tah-wah-nahm shoo-mah-rah koo-mahk kun-um)**

**Pashtu**

**Zu cowalaishum tat a kumaq wacoum? (Zuh cow-al-ish-um tah tah kum-ack wah-coum)**

**Afghan cultural tidbit**

***The concept of ah raish or "to beautify oneself" is important to Afghan women, especially those belonging to the nomadic Kuchi tribe. Kuchi women and girls often wear eye cosmetics, colorful attire and layers of decorative beads and jewelry crafted from silver. Tribal tatoos are also common among nomadic people.***



# U.S., Afghan soldiers visit school

## Officials hope gifts will promote education in the region

**By Army Spc. James Tamez**  
**19th Public Affairs Detachment**

**ALI CHOPAN, Afghanistan** -- Soldiers from the United States Army and Afghan National Army provided school supplies and gifts to the students of Baba Mazari Elementary School here May 6. The supplies and gifts were brought as a part of a joint U.S. and Afghanistan effort to support education centers throughout the country.

"We provided relief to a school west of Mazar-e-Sharif," said Army Maj. Jeff Mataruso, contracting officer representative, 209th Regional Command Advisory Group North garrison. "The ANA told us about the need for school supplies here and we gathered the supplies and delivered them."

Mataruso said most of the donations came from people back in the United States. There were nearly 40 boxes containing school supplies, clothing and toys

for the children.

Mataruso said it took a lot of people to make this delivery possible. Troops from the Army and the ANA provided security at the school and handed out the supplies. He said they heard about the needs of the school from ANA, and did what they could to provide for the school and the students.

"We heard about the situation here at the school and wanted to do something about it," said Afghanistan Master Sgt. Ali Khavari, 1st Garrison, 209th Core, ANA. "The ANA wants to help make sure the people have what they need. We are very happy to help our people."

Khavari said many places throughout Afghanistan have benefited from the help of the U.S. military and their coalition allies. He said with the support of the U.S., many of the schools in smaller villages are getting the supplies and help they need to educate their children.

"The school supplies were very much needed," said Malika Haidary, principal, Baba Mazari Elementary School. "We hope more assistance can be brought in the future."

Haidary said the children came to school in three different time periods throughout the day because there are many children and a limited supply of equipment and teachers available. She said she hoped more could be done to provide the best education possible for all of the children in the area.

Khavari said the support being provided for the schools helps to bring the peace the people of Afghanistan want. He said providing supplies and helping to educate the children of Afghanistan will help in that effort.

"The people are very happy for the help," Khavari said. "We can now get to the villages and help. The children are happy and having a good time."



Girls from the Baba Mazari Elementary School watch as U.S. and ANA soldiers unload gifts and school supplies May 6.



Afghanistan Master Sgt. Ali Khavari carries boxes into the Baba Mazari Elementary School on May 6. Khavari, who is with 1st Garrison, 209th Corps, Afghan National Army, was one of the ANA and U.S. members who handed out school supplies and gifts to the school children.

Photos by Army Spc. James Tamez

# PRT, Uruzgon officials plan improvements

By Army Pfc.  
Anna K. Perry  
19th Public Affairs Detachment

**TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan** -- Members of the Tarin Kowt Provincial Reconstruction Team met with the minister of irrigation for the Uruzgon province for a weekly planning meeting May 2 here.

"We come together with Engineer Kabir once a week to track and nominate projects," said Lt. Col. Douglas Goodfellow, civil affairs team bravo officer in charge. Goodfellow is assigned to the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion.

These are all infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, irrigation and flood mitigation, Goodfellow said.

Mohammed Kabir, who received engineer training at a university in Kabul, is credited with being the charging force behind the province's reconstruction.

"Everything is driven by the Afghanistan government," Goodfellow said. "The com-



Photo by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry

**Members of the Tarin Kowt Provincial Reconstruction Team discuss reconstruction efforts with the minister of irrigation for the Uruzgon province May 2 in Tarin Kowt.**

munity members will approach Engineer Kabir with project ideas."

He'll see if the project is feasible, and if it is, he'll nominate it and draw up the plans, Goodfellow said.

The PRT may provide the supplies for the projects, but Kabir creates manpower and motivation.

The people will step up and do projects because they need to, not because they expect a paycheck, Goodfellow said.

"We don't pay them a salary...he'll influence them to

get it done," Goodfellow added.

Cleaning underground irrigation systems and creating rock filled baskets, or gabions, to protect farmland are just two projects spearheaded by Kabir.

They know how to position the gabions along the riverbank so the water bounces off them, rather than destroying their fertile soil, crops and homes, Goodfellow said.

Proposed projects during the May 2 meeting included building micro hydro plants, canals

and bridges in various towns throughout the province.

If these are feasible, he'll do anything to make the project work -- he'll go the extra mile, Goodfellow said.

Goodfellow said he believes Kabir's leadership is a huge step toward the reconstruction of the province.

"They've got a long way to go as far as building the capacity of this country, but they've got a person who can actually do it," Goodfellow said.

It's definitely going in the right direction, he added.

## Enduring Voices

*Who or what provides motivation during this deployment?*



**Air Force Airman  
1st Class  
Cody Costantino**  
Bagram Airfield

*"My fiance'."*



**Army Sgt.  
Dennis Montroy**  
Bagram Airfield

*"My family back home."*



**British Royal Air  
Force Senior Air  
Craftsman  
Mike Brown**  
Kandahar Airfield

*"My wife and family."*



**Army Sgt. Lloyd  
Penn**  
Bagram Airfield

*"My 2005 GT  
Premium Mustang  
convertible. This  
deployment helped  
me pay for it."*





Photos by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry

Afghan National Army engineers assemble bridge parts during a training exercise held in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province. The troops are assigned to the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps out of Kandahar.

## Afghans build bridge, bond with Canadians

By Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry  
19th Public Affairs Detachment

**TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan** -- A group of Canadian and Afghan engineers recently came together in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province to spend a few days learning the ins and outs of bridge construction.

"Our task is to conduct training with the (Afghan National Army) here in Tarin Kowt before the bridge is airlifted to its permanent location and constructed there," said Canadian Army Master Warrant Officer Ted Bransfield. Bransfield is assigned to the 11 Field Squadron, 1 Combat Engineer Regiment.

Specifically, the Canadian engineers will go over parts, safety precautions, technical theory and actual construction of the bridge with the ANA soldiers, Bransfield said.

The instruction is hoped to ensure a



Afghan National Army engineers take direction from Canadian Army engineer Cpl. Dominic Turgeon during a training exercise held in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province. The ANA troops are assigned to the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps out of Kandahar.

smoother ride for the engineers when they construct the bridge in its final destination.

Adequate preparation for the soldiers

will reduce problems on the ground, said ANA Capt. Amrullah Kohbandy, compa-

**See BRIDGE, Page 7**



# IEDs discovered by ANP, defused in Khowst Province

**Combined Forces Command -  
Afghanistan Public Affairs**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Afghan National Police discovered an improvised explosive device in the middle of a main road in the Matun Valley near Paturri Village in Khowst Province on May 6.

The ANP secured the site, and a Coalition explosive ordnance disposal team responded to the scene to secure the bomb.

When the team reached the site, troops discovered the IED consisted of an anti-tank mine attached to a device, along with two 9-volt batteries.

The team rendered the device harmless and destroyed it in place.



Courtesy photo

**Afghan National Police officers conduct a roadside patrol and vehicle checkpoint. ANP officers discovered an improvised explosive device during a similar patrol May 6.**

"By using these improvised explosive devices, enemies put everyone near them, especially civilians and children, in jeopardy," said Lt. Col. Paul Fitzpatrick, spokesman for Combined Joint Task Force-76, which

is working with the government of Afghanistan and the Afghan National Security forces in a joint effort to counter the threat of IEDs.

"It is every Afghan's duty to help end the threat of IEDs and report any IEDs,

and those responsible for placing them, to Afghan National Security or Coalition forces," said Fitzpatrick. "The Afghan people will not be deterred from building a peaceful and secure society."



Photo by Army Pfc. Anna Perry

**An Afghan National Army engineer helps his battle buddies lift a bridge part during a training exercise held in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province. The soldier is assigned to the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps out of Kandahar.**

## BRIDGE from Page 6

ny commander.

Although not experienced bridge builders, the ANA troops assigned to the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps are no strangers to the work of an engineer.

The soldiers have constructed everything from roads to B-huts and dining facilities and they have the skill and potential to complete any project, Kohbandy said.

That became clear to the Canadians in almost no time at all, Bransfield said.

"These guys are really picking it up," Bransfield added. "I'm impressed with their enthusiasm, motivation and how fast they are learning."

Both the Canadian and ANA engineers agreed the project was a great opportunity to improve Afghanistan's infrastructure.

"By helping the ANA, you help the people of Afghanistan," Bransfield said.

Kohbandy said he was grateful for the assistance provided by Bransfield's troops.

"We needed someone to lead us in the right direction," Kohbandy. "We now have another way to help the people of our country."



**Afghan National Army engineers move bridge parts during a training exercise in southern Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province. The soldiers are assigned to the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps out of Kandahar.**





(Above) Army Spc. David Wilson selects shoes for an Afghan child from a pile of donated items. Wilson is assigned to Task Force Tiger.

(Below) Afghan children wait for the shoe distribution to begin at Golbahar Orphanage in Kapisa Province on May 2.



Army 1st Sgt. Jim Centers helps an Afghan boy try on an athletic shoe at Golbahar Orphanage in Kapisa on May 2. Centers is assigned to Task Force Tiger.

## Task Force Tiger

By Army Sgt. 1st Class  
**Ken McCooley**  
*19th Public Affairs Detachment*

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- The Soldiers of Task Force Tiger gave a helping hand to people of Afghanistan by giving them the boot, all 1,600 pounds of them.

Twenty TF Tiger Soldiers provided nearly a ton of shoes to a group of orphans at the Golbahar orphanage in Kapisa Province on May 2 as part of a civic assistance mission.

The shoe delivery actually began months earlier. The Historic Charleston Foundation along with the Goodwill Industries of Charleston and members of the 315th Air Wing (former service members, many of whom had already served in Afghanistan) began collecting shoes. The

Soldiers of Task Force Tiger gave a helping hand when it came to shoe distribution.

The program, which is part of a larger project which collects and distributes shoes to needy Afghans, is a joint effort of the 19th Air Force and the 19th Public Affairs Detachment.

"We receive donations frequently," said Army 1st Sgt. Jim Centers, 19th Air Force (Task Force Tiger). "We fill up the boxes with shoes as we collect them and give out all the shoes we can."

Before taking the shoes to the orphanage, Task Force Tiger distributed them to small, medium and large sizes. As the Soldiers and teachers lined up the shoes, the children





etic shoe during a civic assistance mission to Golbahar  
Force Tiger.



Photos by Army Sgt. 1st Class Ken McCooley

Army Maj. Karen Nolan helps an Afghan girl try on a pair of shoes at the Golbahar Orphanage in Kapisa Province on May 2. Nolan is assigned to Task Force Tiger.

# er delivers shoes to orphanage

Task Force Tiger came through to delivering the footwear. sponsored by Enduring Faith of a monthly civic assistance delivers clothing and school supplies to Afghan children. donations (like this) quite frequent. Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric Ebb's Support Group (Task Force Tiger) set up our vehicles with (as many as) 100 shoes today." On the trip, the Soldiers of Task Force Tiger divided the shoes into sizes of small, medium and large to help with distribution. Soldiers entered the orphanage, helped the students and helped organ-

ize the distribution. The Soldiers and teachers organized eight stations to properly fit the children with new shoes.

"We brought the shoes to these kids because they did not have any shoes, or the ones they did have were worn out," said Army 2nd Lt. Tim Pigman, 219th ASG. "It's good to see firsthand how what we do affects the lives of the Afghan people."

One of the most important aspects of the mission, according to Ebb, was having female Soldiers present at the distribution. Without the female Soldiers, the girls requiring shoes would not be able to have been fitted for footwear by the male Soldiers.

Not only is the mission important for the children who need shoes, it's important for the

Soldiers as well. Ebb said the ability to get out of the office and see the impact of what is being done in Afghanistan was important to Soldiers who volunteered for the mission.

"These missions are planned every month, and the Soldiers need a change of scenery," he said. "The Soldier I bring out here in the morning is not the same Soldier I bring home at the end of the day."

As a chaplain, one of Ebb's jobs is to help anyone in any way that he can. Even if it wasn't his job, he said he would still do anything to help people here.

"Helping people is just a part of me," Ebb said. "I would do this even if it wasn't my job. I would find a way to come out and help these people."



# Soldier delivers dolls, hope to Afghan youth

**By Army Cpl.  
Tremeshia Ellis  
19th Public Affairs Detachment**

If all goes according to plan, a project that started out as a simple gesture to lift the spirits of girls in Afghanistan, may lead to a cultural revolution.

The project, called "A Thousand Dolls for a Thousand girls" is the brain-child of Sgt. 1st Class Steve Brown, a Soldier assigned to the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion, 321st Brigade.

The project's goal was to collect dolls for Afghan girls to boost their self-worth. Brown said he was inspired to start the project after observing females taking a back seat to males while conducting his daily missions as a member of the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"When we conduct humanitarian assistance missions, primarily men and boys reap the benefits," he said. "The culture dictates that women remain in the background or in their homes."



Photos courtesy of Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team

**Army Sgt. 1st Class Steve Brown delivers dolls to girls at a school in Kohi Safi on May 5.**

Brown said he feels the next generation will have the greatest impact on changing Afghanistan and the cultural norms.

Brown said he also thought it was possible for the PRT to build girls' self-worth, in addition to building roads and hospitals.

"I thought if I could make a difference by showing men and boys how important women are to us, it might

make an impact on the country," he said.

It did not take long for Brown to decide to center his self-image, and culture-changing project on a girlhood favorite - the doll.

"I knew girls liked dolls and I hadn't seen any girls playing with them here," he said.

Brown said he decided that starting a doll donation and distribution drive would show Afghan men and boys that

girls are important and give the girls a chance to own something American girls often take for granted.

Though the unit would be redeploying home soon, he seized the chance to make an impact and took the idea to his boss, Army Lt. Col. George McDonald.

McDonald gave Brown his approval but pointed out that

**See DOLLS, Page 11**



## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

**Army 1st Sgt. Jose Rodriguez gives water to an Afghan child at a combined medical assistance mission in Mata Khan, Paktika Province on May 2. Rodriguez is with the 2nd Battalion 87th Infantry, from Fort Drum, NY.**

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. George Flores  
Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



## DOLLS from Page 10

the unit only had six weeks to complete the project before heading home in May.

Instead of feeling defeated, Brown said he took the deadline as a challenge and a thousand dolls for a thousand girls was born.

Brown said he, his wife and members of the PRT immediately began contacting people in the states. They came through in a big way.

To date, project contributors have shipped more than 1,100 dolls to Afghanistan.

While the majority of dolls come from individuals in the United States, Brown, with the help of his friends and family, has also managed to garner support from a variety of civic, religious and corporate organizations.

Women's auxiliaries, American veterans groups, the Lutheran Church, Elks Club, high schools, 4-H Clubs, Wendy's Restaurants and Wal-Mart have contributed to the project.

One of the project's biggest supporters has been the Air Force Academy, Brown said. "They still have more than 1,000 dolls on the way here," he added.

Brown and the members of the Bagram PRT have delivered dolls to nine villages in the Parwan, Kohi Safi area and in Charwan City, he said.

The Afghan reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, said Belal Abawi, an interpreter for the PRT.

"In this country, the females have become accustomed to life as second-class citizens,"



Photos courtesy of the Bagram PRT

**Girls walk home after receiving dolls courtesy of "A Thousand Dolls for a Thousand Girls." Projects like "A Thousand Dolls for a Thousand Girls" help ensure Afghan children have safe toys instead of dangerous ones.**

he said.

"When they see that they are being served first, the girls are beside themselves. When they see that they aren't at the back of the line, it makes them feel good. It makes them feel important."

The impact of providing dolls goes beyond improving self-esteem, Abawi said.

"It is a very dire situation here. Children often work alongside their parents in the field as early as age 6. Toys are rare," he said. "It's important for girls and boys to have something to keep their minds off the many hardships they face. Toys allow them to feel like kids again."

Abawi said "a thousand dolls for a thousand girls" and similar projects foster goodwill toward Americans, the Coalition and the mission.

"It's important that they (Afghan children) know Americans are thinking about them," he said. "They see the evidence of war -- Soldiers, guns, tanks and planes everyday. This lets them see that Americans are just human beings like everyone else and they care."

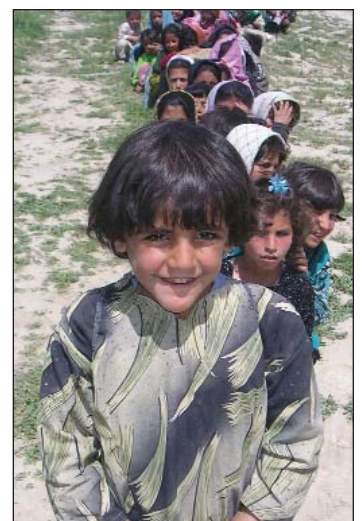
Brown agreed and said he plans to continue the thou-

sand dolls project as part of a non-profit charity, Agape Love Missions, he has recently established.

"This project has grown into something greater that will now be a part of my life back home," Brown said.

For now, the success of his project is simply measured in smiles.

"When you see smiling little girls skipping home holding the hands of their new dolls or sitting and cuddling with their dolls like American girls do, you know you've done something good," Brown said.



**Afghan girls wait to receive their new 'babies' at an elementary school in Koh Safi on May 5.**



**An Afghan girl holds her new doll Duranti village on May 8.**



# ANA climbs new heights with mountain course

**By Air Force Capt. Michael Andrews**  
**OSCT-A public affairs**

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — The Afghan National Army reached another milestone when it graduated its first basic-level mountain climbing class recently at Camp Invicta.

Thirty-six students graduated from the class, which was designed to train Afghan soldiers on basic climbing capabilities and unit movement in a mountainous environment.

The innovative, four-week course was taught by four Italian climbing instructors who focused training on equipment knowledge, basic climbing techniques and rescue climbing techniques.

ANA Capt. Nabiullah Mrzai thanked the Italian instructors for their cooperation and added, "This training has provided a critical new capability for the Afghanistan National Army to conduct professional mountain operations."

The best 28 of the 36 students were selected to participate in an advanced mountain climbing course in Italy.

The goal of the Italian advanced course

is to train the Afghan soldiers with Italian climbing soldiers and for those who complete the course to become the first ANA mountain climbing instructors.

As the students learned in this class, the ability to conduct mountainous military operations is critical to military operations and the security and stability of Afghanistan. The graduates were charged with the responsibility of passing along their training and professionalism to their future students.

With these graduations, the ANA is on its way to building a professional mountain-climbing cadre, allowing the ANA to operate in the mountains around the country.

**(Right) An Afghan National Army soldier demonstrates the proper knot technique in order to climb safely.**



**A soldier salutes ANA Capt. Nabiullah Mrzai after receiving his graduation certificate for completing the first basic-level mountain climbing course.**



**Afghan National Army soldiers practice their climbing and safety skills during hands-on climbing training in Lalander Valley.**



# Soldiers, Afghans build relationship through medical care

By Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry  
19th Public Affairs Detachment

**TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan** -- The primary mission for troops running the Uruzgan Provincial Trauma Center here is to provide health and trauma support for American and Coalition forces.

"Fortunately, we don't have to do that too often," said Army Maj. Scott Shawen, an orthopedic surgeon attached to the 14th Combat Support Hospital forward surgical team. "About 98 percent of what the hospital does involves taking care of Afghan citizens and Afghan National Army soldiers."

The FST troops see a constant flow and variety of traumatic injuries come through their door.

"On the orthopedic end, we deal with everything from blast injuries and blunt trauma to falls and gunshot wounds," Shawen said.

The facility also has a general surgeon on hand. General surgery treats conditions like appendicitis, abdominal perforations which are suspected to be caused by



Photos by Army Pfc. Anna K. Perry

**Army Spc. Chris Roark prepares surgical equipment as Army Maj. Scott Shawen tends to the hand of an Afghan child injured by an explosive device. Roark, an operating room technician, and Shawen, an orthopedic surgeon, are assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital, forward surgical team in Tarin Kowt.**

native parasites, and abdominal injuries caused by blasts and projectiles, he added.

The team has the knowledge and equipment to deal with almost any case they encounter. The few scenarios that can't be handled, such as spinal injuries requiring surgery, may be evacuated to Bagram or Kandahar, Shawen said.

In addition to receiving emergency patients, the center holds a clinic twice a week where many people come for follow-ups, but they also get new patients according to Shawen.

The hospital's doors are always open

for any person requiring medical assistance because the commander has said they won't ever turn anyone away and supporting the Afghan citizens is a mission Shawen said he believes in.

"We're helping to improve an infrastructure that's been extremely diminished over the past 30 years," he said.

Building a trusting relationship is the key here and that comes from providing medical care the Afghans can't yet provide for themselves, agreed Army Spc. Trista Parker, a licensed nurse practitioner assigned to the 14th CSH FST.



**Army Sgt. Matthew McKenna cleanses the burned hand of an Afghan man at the Uruzgan Provincial Trauma Center in Tarin Kowt. McKenna is a medic assigned to 102nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.**



**Army Spc. Trista Parker teaches an Afghan girl how to use a toy at the Uruzgan Provincial Trauma Center in Tarin Kowt. Parker is a licensed nurse practitioner assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital forward surgical team.**



# Combat Engineers destroy enemy weapons

**By Marine Sgt. Matt Preston**  
*American Forces Network - Afghanistan*

**CHAWKAY VALLEY, Afghanistan** -- Engineers supporting 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines have helped chip away at the enemy's capability to fight by finding and destroying their weapons -- with explosive results. The engineers swept the Chawkay Valley and surrounding areas for illegal weapons caches and explosives as part of Operation Mountain Lion.

Two anti-tank mines, various mortar rounds and other unexploded ordnance are now out of commission, thanks to the Marine combat engineers, who blew up the find in late April. During one demolition, the engineers detonated mortar rounds that were set in the road as an improvised explosive device

"We got those four mortar rounds that we dug up out of the ground, an IED up on the high road," said Marine Cpl. Benjamin Shonkwiler, a combat engineer from Esterville, Iowa. "So now we're just disposing of them because EOD didn't have the time so we took care of it."

Though the IED wasn't complete, the harmful purpose was clear - the explosives were intended to kill Coalition and Afghan forces.



**Combat Engineers from Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines detonate two anti-tank mines in the Chawkay Valley. Combat Engineers often destroy unexploded ordnance.**

"The [detonation] was successful, we didn't have any splatter from the demo and everything was destroyed," said Marine Lance Cpl. Jesse Fishback, a combat engineer from Carmile, Ill.

The engineers often have to sift through a lot of junk to find something truly dangerous. During one search, the engineers found another anti-tank mine. However, this one was just a shell, possibly leftover from the Soviet invasion during the 1980s. The

engineers determined it posed no threat as an explosive.

The engineers also searched houses for hidden weapons caches, using metal detectors while following Afghan National Army soldiers, who performed the initial searches in the villagers' homes.

The combat engineers attached to Bravo Company come from the 1st Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan.



**Marine Cpl. Benjamin Shonkwiler, uses a metal detector to check an area in the Chawkay Valley for explosives and illegal weapons. Shonkwiler is a combat engineer from Esterville, Iowa, attached to Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines.**



**Combat engineers from Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines prepare to detonate captured mortars in the Chawkay Valley. These mortars were planted in the road as an improvised explosive device.**





(Above) Service members of Combined Joint Task Force - 76 pose for a photo with CSI NY actor Gary Sinise.

(Left) Actor Gary Sinise poses for a photo with Soldiers from Task Force Med, Combined Joint Task Force 76, April 30.

# CSI NY's Gary Sinise visits troops

Actor thanks service members by signing autographs and taking photos

By Army Pfc. Brian Schroeder  
Combined Joint Task Force - 76

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Actor Gary Sinise visited service members across Afghanistan as part of a tour sponsored by the United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment from April 28 to May 1.

Sinise, star of the television program "CSI: NY," movies "Apollo 13" and "Forrest Gump," visited service members at Jalalabad Airfield, Camp Eggers, Camp Phoenix and Bagram Airfield to shake hands, pose for photographs and sign autographs.

"I just wanted to be able to do something and not just sit back and watch the news, but actually get out there to help somebody out," Sinise said.



Actor Gary Sinise signs a wall in the Combined Joint Task Force 76 Morale, Welfare and Recreation office. Sinise visited service members in Afghanistan from April 28 to May 1 as part of a United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment tour.



Actor Gary Sinise receives a coin from Brig. Gen. Anthony Tata, Combined Joint Task Force - 76 deputy commanding general -- support. Sinise visited service members in Afghanistan from April 28 to May 1 as part of a United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment tour.



# *Freedom Watch*

May 15, 2006



**"Civilization is a method of living, an attitude of equal respect for all men . "**

**— Jane Addams**